GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:943
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
BEHAVIOR OF THE TALIBAN AUTHORITIES ON HIJACKING ISSUE
RUPCHAND PAL;SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times dated January 24, 2000 under captioned `Taliban laid our red carpet for Azhar Masood`;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Taliban authorities at that time when he reached Kandhar Airport with three criminals; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)
(a) Yes, Sir.
(b)&(c) The Taliban were clearly told by us that as they exercised jurisdiction in Kandahar, the released terrorists would be brought by us to the Kandahar Airport and would thereafter be under Taliban control. It was expected that in the case of both the hijackers and the released terrorists, the Taliban would act in conformity with their law. The decision taken by the Taliban to allow the hijackers and the released terrorists ten hours to leave Afghanistan was theirs alone. The Taliban authorities, while adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, consistently had their sympathies with the hijackers, the released terrorists and their other supporters.